

## Notes and Observations

THE SWALLOWTAIL MOTH (*OURAPTERYX SAMBUCARIA* L.) IN NORTH PERTHSHIRE. — On 19th July and 12th August, 1977 single specimens of the Swallowtail moth were collected at light in Pitlochry. Meyrick, in his *Revised Handbook of British Lepidoptera* (1928), gives the distribution of this species as: Britain to Dumfries, Ireland, rather common; and South (1939 edition) states that in Scotland it is confined to the south "but has been noted up to Glasgow". I have in my collection a specimen taken at Rossdhu by Loch Lomond on 6th June, 1960, which appears to be very early in the year for this moth, and on 11th July, 1976 I saw one at Largs in north Ayrshire.

I have examined several of the more recently published lists of moths collected in the northern half of Scotland, but none contained any reference to the Swallowtail. I would be interested to know if this is the most northerly record and whether it indicates that the species is in the process of extending its range. — BRIAN MORRISON, 7 Dixon Terrace, Pitlochry, Perthshire.

BUTTERFLY RECORDS FROM ST. LUCIA, WEST INDIES. — Extensive collecting in St. Lucia between August 1975 and January 1977 revealed the presence of two species of butterfly not recorded for the island in the authoritative work of Riley (1975, *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of the West Indies*). These were: (1) *Allosmaitia piplea* Godman and Salvin (Lycaenidae), one male taken on flower of *Borreria verticillata* (L.) at Massacr e in February, 1976 (pers. coll.). A second specimen, also male, was seen at Cap Estate during August 1976. (2) *Phoebis philea philea* (L.) (Pieridae), a slightly worn female caught at Massacr e in December 1976 (pers. coll.). A male, presumed to be of the same species, was seen at the same time and location. R. I. Vane-Wright (pers. comm.) comments that the female might represent a migrant individual from Trinidad.

In addition to these records, the occurrence of *Papilio androgeus* Cramer is confirmed. Males were seen at a number of localities throughout the island and one specimen, at Cap Estate, was captured in December 1975 (pers. coll.). The assistance of Mr. Vane-Wright in confirming the identity of *P. philea philea* is acknowledged. — D. J. HUNT, Winban Research Centre, P.O. Box 115, Castries, St. Lucia, W.I.

RARE IMMIGRANTS IN WESTMORLAND IN 1977. On 20th October at about 4.30 a.m. G.M.T., prior to switching off the m.v. trap, there, in the drizzling rain, among the many *Epirrita dilutata* D. & S. sitting on the white wall of the garage which is near the light, was a yellowish noctuid. Thinking it might be a late *Xanthia citrargo* L. and not wishing the early birds

to get it, I pill-boxed it and forgot about it until the following evening, when thinking of releasing it, a further examination revealed it as a fine male *Mythimna vitellina* Hb. (The Delicate).

Five days later on 25th October, at the same time of morning, I found a large white micro flattened out on the perspex top of the m.v. trap in the pouring rain, which I instantly recognised as *Palpita unionalis* Hb. After drying out, I found it to be a female in surprisingly good condition. The last record of this species I know of in VC 60, is of one taken only half a mile away at m.v. light by Mr. S. Coxey about 12 years ago. — J. BRIGGS, Frimley House, Deepdale Close, Slackhead, Beetham, nr. Milnthorpe.

UNUSUAL CROSS-PAIRING IN M.V. TRAP IN 1977. — The night of 6th and 7th July was fairly warm, with minimum night temperature of 14°C. 376 macros of 67 species were counted, including 103 *Agrotis exclamatoris* L. No anaesthetic was used. On the inside wall of the trap was a female *A. exclamatoris* in cop. with a male *Abrostola triplasia* L. (Light Spectacle). On boxing the pair no separation occurred, the *triplasia* was almost exhausted and by the following morning both were dead, still firmly attached. They are now on my setting board in death undivided. — J. BRIGGS, Frimley House, Deepdale Close, Slackhead, Beetham, nr. Milnthorpe.

DEWICK'S PLUSIA (MACDUNNOUGHIA CONFUSA STEPHENS) AND OTHER RARE MIGRANT MOTHS IN WARWICKSHIRE IN 1977. — Among the more notable species recorded were three larvae of the Bedstraw Hawk (*Hyles gallii* Rott.), found by a school-boy on the outskirts of Coventry in the early part of September. There was nothing else much of note until the exceptional migration in late October, when at Charlecote a female Delicate (*Mythimna vitellina* Hb.) turned up in my m.v. trap on the 20th. The following night a female Gem (*Orthonama obstipata* F.) appeared in good condition. At Marton some 15 miles away, the 19th produced for Graham Robson an *M. vitellina*; and on the 24th, a very cold moonlight night, he took a specimen in fine condition of the very rare Dewick's Plusia (*Macdunnoughia confusa* (Steph.)). Another Marton man, Roy Allen, also caught in his moth trap a great rarity, the Silver-striped Hawk (*Hippotion celerio* L.), a male in good condition on the 28th, and on the same date, the Vestal (*Rhodometra sacraria* L. ab. *labda* Cramer). — ANDREW GARDNER, Willows End, 29 Charlecote, Nr. Warwick.

BREEDING PIERIS CHEIRANTHI HBN. (LEP.: PIERIDAE). — On the 10th September, 1977, whilst collecting at Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands, I found some eggs of this butterfly on the underside of a Nasturtium leaf (*Tropaeolum majus*). These eggs were either laid that very morning or on the afternoon of the previous day, as I had a look at the same plants on the morning of the 9th and did not see any.